



**500.15 Abuse of Elderly and / or Disabled  
Adults**

Number Series: 500—Operational  
Approved Date:  
Review Due Date:

Sheriff's Approval: Digital  
Review Frequency: 3- Years

---

**POLICY**

The Hendry County Sheriff's Office will strive to ensure that all applicable participating agencies achieve open communication and a sure and rapid method of notification when an adult abuse investigation is initiated.

**PROCEDURE**

- A. Upon investigating the initial allegation of physical abuse or neglect of an elderly and/or disabled adult, the deputy will:
  - 1. Review the basis for the complaint and determine if there is a criminal offense.
  - 2. Conduct preliminary interviews with the victim(s)/witness(es).
  - 3. If necessary, request emergency medical response to the scene for victim evaluation and determination if transport to a medical facility is needed.
  - 4. Examine the scene for physical evidence.
  - 5. Document the living conditions by photographic images and written report.
  - 6. Notify and confer with a Florida Department of Children and Families Adult Protective Services investigator through the 1-800 Hotline (1-800-96-ABUSE).
  - 7. Contact the Criminal Investigation Unit's on-call Detective and brief them on the case. Upon an investigator responding to the scene, maintain the crime scene. At the conclusion of the initial investigation, forward the written report and any enclosure to the detective for follow-up investigation.
- B. Criminal Investigation Unit investigator will:
  - 1. After receiving a briefing of the case, recommend appropriate closure, or respond immediately to the scene and begin investigative follow-up.
- C. Prior to leaving the scene, the deputy/detective will provide the adult protective investigator with:
  - 1. His/her name and ID number
  - 2. Case report number
  - 3. Status of the investigation
  - 4. The name of the individual responsible for the closure of the investigation
- D. In all allegations of the abuse of elderly or disabled adults, the deputy/detective will complete a case report.
  - 1. The case report will reflect only one victim per case number.

2. Lewd or lascivious offenses as defined by Florida Statute 825.1025 will be referred to the on-call Criminal Investigations Unit detective.
3. Financial exploitation of an elderly person as defined by Florida Statute 825.103 shall be referred to the on-call detective in the Criminal Investigations Unit.

## **DEFINITIONS**

**ADULT ABUSE** – An act committed against an adult as described by Florida Statute 825.102 and Florida Statute 825.1025.

**PROTECTIVE INVESTIGATOR** – A designated protective investigator from adult protective services.

## **REFERENCES**

State/Federal Regulations:

Florida Statute 825.102

Florida Statute 825.1025

Florida Statute 825.103

CFA:

None

Forms:

None

Other Policy/ Procedure References:

500.04 Victim Witness Assistance